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A DIALOGUE

BETWEEN
The Crosse in Cheap,
AND
Charing Crosse.

Comforting each other, as fearing their fall
in these uncertaine times.

By Ryhen Pameach.



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DIAGRAM

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*A Dialogue betwene the Crosse in
Cheape, and Charing Crosse.*

58-536

GIE

Cheap.



H deere Sister of the Strand how doe you, I am so Crosse'd
that I feare my utter ruine and destruction is at hand?

Char. Sister of West-cheape, Crossees are incident to us,
and all our kindred; the time hath beene when I have been
Crosse'd too, but I have been free, without these fourescore
and odd yeares. *Cheap.* Happie are you, and long may you so

continue. *Char.* But what's the greatest Crosse that hath befallen you?

Cheap. Nay Sister if my Crosse were fallen, I should live at a great deale
more hearts ease then I doe. *Char.* I beleeeve it is the Crosse upon your
head, that hath brought you into this trouble, is it not?

Cheap. Yes indeed you are in the right. *Char.* How commeth this about?

Cheap. Truly I know not, except I should be generally envied and hated,
because I carry so much gold about me, and there is so little to be had in
the land. *Char.* Sister like enough, I wonder in my heart you are not rob'd
nor cheated. *Cheap.* A world of knaves and cheaters I confesse, passe a-
long by me every day, but I am well look'd unto, and watch'd, by the Herbe-
women on the one side of me, and the Costard-mongers and Tripe-wives on
the other, that I can take no wrong; besides the Serjants of Woodstreet
counter are not farre from me, whome they feare more then all the rest.

Char. Had I been so back'd when time was I had fared the better, my e-
nemies have search'd and undermin'd me manie a time, but I was ever too
hard for them. *Cheap.* Too hard for them? how? *Char.* I am made all
of white Marble (which is not perceived of every one) and so cemented
with mortar made of the purest lime, Callis sand, whites of egges and the
strongest wort, that I defie all hatchets and hammers whatsoever.

Cheap. Were you never begd? *Char.* For what, for a Foole?

Cheap. No, by some necessitous Courtier or other to supply his wants.

Char. Oh yes, first, in King Henry the eightes daies I was begg'd and should
have beene degraded. *Cheap.* Why you never tooke any degrees in Scholes.

Char. No but you know I have a Stately assent of many steps, I should
have been taken off from them. *Cheap.* Why did they begge you?

Char. Faith, according to the course of the world, for that I had; then in
Edward the sixt when Summerfet house was in building, I was in danger after
that in the raigne of Queene Elizabeth, one of her footmen had like to have
run away with me; but the greatest danger of all I was in, when I quak'd for

for feare, was in the time of King *James*; for I was eight times begg'd, yet still I stand. *Cheap.* You are so weatherbeaten and terne that you are not worth the begging. I pray what would they have done with you?

Char. Part of me was bespoken to make a kitchen chimney for a chiefe Constable in Shorditch; an Innekeeper in Holborne had bargained for as much of me as would make him two troughes, one to stand under a pumpe to water his guests horses, and the other to give his swine their meate in; the rest of my poore carcase should have been carried I know not whither to the repaire of a decayed stone bridge (as I was told) on the top of Harrow hill: Our Roiall fore-father and founder King *Edward* the first you know built our Sister Crosses, Lincolne, Granthame, Woburne, Northampton, Stonestratford, Dunstable, Saint Albanes, and our selves heere in London; in the 21. yeare of his Raigne, and in the yeare of our Lord 1289. in memory of that incomparable Lady, Queene *Eleanor* his wife who died at Harby neere to Bullingbrooke in Lincolnshire upon Saint *Andrews* eve Anno 1288. *Cheap.* Sister I have heard she accompanied him in his journey to the holy land against the enemies of Christ. *Char.* Most true, and received a wound in his leg, by a poysoned arrow, which poyson this good Queene never ceased till she had sucked out the venome, by which meanes he was recovered, in memory of whose deare love he built us all.

Cheap. Truly, I was at the first one of the same foundation, but have lost the honor to be accounted one of those, which indeed I am; our age is one and the same, alas! Sister since my first foundation I have endured a world of misery, as I shall relate unto you. *Char.* I pray doe.

Cheap. After this most valiant and excellent King had built me in forme answerable in beaury and proportion to the rest, I fell to decay, at which time one *John Harberley* Major of London, having first obtained a licence of King *Henry* the sixt Anno, 1441. I was repaired in a beautifull manner. *John Fisher* a Mercer after that gave 600. markes to my new erecting or building, which was finished Anno, 1484. and after in the second yeare of *Henry* the eighth I was guilded over, against the coming in of *Charles* the first Emperour, and newly then guilded against the Coronation of King *Edward* the sixt; and guilded againe Anno, 1554. against the Coronation of King *Phillip*; Lord! how often have I bene presented by Iuries of the quest for incontinbrance of the street, and hindring of Carts and Carriages, yet I have kept my standing; I shall never forget how upon the 21. of June, Anno 1581. my lower statues were in the night with ropes pulled and rent downe as the Resurrection of Christ, the Image of the Virgin *Mary*, *Edward* the Confessor, and the rest. *Char.* It seemes people in former times were as vehement against Crosses as they are now, but how escaped you their furie?

Cheap. Then arose many divisions and new sects formerly unheard of, as *Martin Marprelate*, alias *Penrie*, *Browne* and sundrie others, as the Chronicle will informe you?

Char. But I pray Sister how came you to subsist untill this day?

Cheap. Truly my Crosse should have been taken quite away, and a Pyramid erected

erected in the place; but *Queene Elizabeth* (that Queen of blessed memory) commanded some of her privie Councell, in her Majesties name, to write unto *Sir Nicholas Moseley*, then Maior, to have me againe repaired with a Crosse; yet for all this, I stood bare for a yeare or two after: Her Highnes being very angry, sent expresse word she would not endure their contempt, but expressly commanded forthwith the Crosse should be set up, and sent a strict command to *Sir William Rider*, Lord Maior, and bad him to respect my antiquity: for that is the ancient Entigne of Christianity, &c. This letter was dated Decemb. 24. Anno 1600. Last of all, I was was marvellously beautified and adorned against the coming in of King *James*, and fenced about with sharp pointed barres of Iron, against the rude and villanous hands of such as upon condition as they might have the pulling of mee downe, would bee bound to risse all Cheapside.

Char. But sister, I wonder after so often gilding and beautifying, you commonly lose your lustre and glory in a small time.

Cheap. That is long of the Citie smoke, proceeding from Sea-cole, that is hourly burned in every house: if you walke but in Moore fields, you shall see of those trees, that part of the Bark next to the Citie, all blacke, and long of smoake. But sister, could I come and whisper you in the care, I had something to tell you.

Char. Alas sister I I am like the belly, I have no eares, if it please you to send your minde in writing by a Curry-comb-makers wife, that resorteth to the Kings Stables at the Mewes, and I should take it very kindly; but it is no matter, tell me plainly the secret you would reveale, we care not who heare us.

Cheap. Then, Sister, I must tell you, I am accused for a Papist, and not thought fit to have my abiding in the heart of the Citie: I am called and preached against by the name of the Citie-idoll. The Brownists spit at mee as they come along, the Familists hide their eyes with their fingers, the Anabaptist wish me knocked into a thousand pieces, the sisters of the fraternity will not come heere me, but goe about by Watling-street, and come in againe by Bow-lane to buy their markets of the Countrey women.

Charing. It may bee the bright lustre of your golden garment dazled their sight.

Cheap. No, it is the Crosse above that is such a Moat in their eyes; nay they doe not onely say I am an Idoll, but they also say I am a supporter of Idols.

Char. That is, as we before discoursed, because you beare so many Images about you.

Cheap. I wonder what offence they can take at my Crosse, it never did them hurt, there is no Image of Christ upon it, why doe they not as well goe tell his Majesty there is a Crosse standing above his Royall Crowne, and wish him to file it off, as they did in Boston the Crosse upon their Towne Mace (though it cost them the setting on againe.) Nay, sister of the Strand, so extreemly they hate the Crosse, that they abhorre every thing that maketh a shew, or ex-

meth but the resemblance of a Crosse: As this last weeke a Brokers wife in Horns ditch, beat her maid pittifully, for laying (as shee made her maisters bed) by chance, two bed-slaves a crosse. And another, a Parish Clarke, a petty Schoolmaster, would not suffer a Christ Crosse in any Horne-booke, but cut them all out, and rub'd over the place where it stood, with Chalke, or butter.

Char. These fellows seeme to me to agree much in one opinion with the Turkes, who because they would not offend against the second Commandement, will in their paintings and Carpets make not onely not the image of a man, but of no other living creature, be it Beast, Bird, Fish, Worme, or whatsoever, no not so much as the draught of a perfect Flower, because they would avoid the note of Idolatry.

Cheap. *Dum vitunt vitium, stulti in contraria currunt.* Concerning our Crosses, if our fanatick brethren had lived in the time of *Constantine* the Great, they would have attempted to have pluck'd that Crosse from the sky which appeared unto him when hee got that great victory against his enemies, with, *In hoc signo vinces* in this signe thou shalt overcome.

Char. That Crosse indeed was out of their reach. *Cheap.* But if I got downe, being the Metropolitan Crosse of the land, what will become of our other sisters, Northampton, Waltham, S. Albanes, &c. best of those beautifull ones of Abington in Berks shire, and of Coventry in Warwick shire, Chester? &c. *Char.* They will sin be friends to the warrant you: I know Mr. Maior of Coventry will have a care of his, it being to haire an ornament of that ancient and well governed Citie, whose liberties and freedome were long since obtained by *Godine*, wife as I take it, of *Leefricus*, a Saxon Prince, who being incensed against that Citie, shee procured their priviledges againe by riding (as was enjoyed by her husband) naked through the Citie at noon day; and her picture to riding, is set up in glasse in a window in *St. Michaels Church* in the same Citie.

Cheap. I wonder that window is not beaten downe by the Brownists in all this time!! a womans picture riding naked set up in a Church window?

Char. Why not as well as the Divels in many windowes?

Cheap. It is indeed not to decent, but in regard that act of hers gained them their liberties, they did it in a gratefull remembrance of her love.

Char. It was the custome of ancient times, yea even from *S. Basils* time, to paint the histories of Martyrs, Confessors, and publick Benefactors in their Church windowes, as in *Linne* is artificially painted in glasse the whole history of the martyrdom of *S. Margaret* under *Dioclesian*.

Cheap. But sifter, if all manner of Crosses run the same fortune, my Lord Maior and the Aldermen his brethren, were best to look well to the Citie Armes, for that is a plaine Crosse Gules in a field Silver, the sword of *S. Paul* (not that of *Sir William Walworth* where-with *Wat Tyler* was slaine) in the dexter point: All his Majesties ships must take downe the red Crosses from their main tops too, and the Crosses in every Market Towne where the Countrey wenches sit with their butter and cheese, must be abolished for feare of giving offence to a Feltmaker and his fellowes.

Char. Many a Coach have I observed passing by mee to our English Court, whole owners, Kings, Princes, Lords, &c. have borne Crosses in their Armes, as *K. Edward* the Confessor, the King of Denmark in King *Iames* his time, Duke

Memorancie

Mémorance in Queen Elizabeths time, Duke of Buckingham, the Earle of Bathe, the Earle of Southampton, Bishop of Duresme, Bishop of Carlile, Coventry and Lichfield. *S. Davids.* Of Lords, the Lords *Sandes, Shandos, Paget.* Of Knights, *Huffie, Shelton, &c.* Of Gentlemen *sans nombre, Copley, Hallam, Gounny, Morison, &c.* *Cheap.* I beleeeve shortly Red-crosse and White-crosse streets must change their names too. *Char.* That were great pittie: for the Butchers of Creplegate, when they have been buying of Swine at Barnet, or making merry at Islington, know not how to aske the way home. But shall those new erected Crosse upon *Pauls* Church, bee allowed to stand there still?

Cheap. Yes without all doubt, what reason to the contrary? or who dares offer to take them downe? *Char.* *Pauls* Crosse the most famous preaching place is downe, and quite taken away. *Cheap.* It is true, but with an intent to be built fairer and bigger when the Church shall be finish'd. *Char.* It is a wonder *Pauls* it selfe is not quite pulld downe: for it is built (as all Cathedral Churches are) in forme of a Crosse. *Cheap.* How? *Pauls* pulld downe, and cost so much onely the repairing? why, the building of such another, would almost undoe a whole Kingdom: as it hath lately all the dwellers about it. *Char.* Oh no sister, you deceive your selfe, it hath found very bountifull Benefactors. *Cheap.* It is true indeed, I remember one of the greatest Towns in Essex gave fifteen pence this last year toward the repaire of it. *Char.* Surely if Churches were to be built in those dayes, they would hardly bee raised up after that rate. *Cheap.* How should they when our Sectaries say, they may serve God as well in a Barn? *Char.* I cannot beleeeve but some of those fellows ancestors were threshers. *Cheap.* Yes, I beleeeve such as *Henry* the fourth, the late French King meant when he espied a Nunnery and a Friery hard one by another, said merrily to some about him: *Viola sa grange icy sont les bateurs.*

See, theres the barn, and here be the threshers, meaning the Friers.

Char. Have patience sister, it is hard if we finde no friends, let them but give us leave to stand out our times, and let the next age take all and pay all, as the saying is. *Cheap.* Why should we not finde so much respect in this age, as in former ages, and neere to the primitive times? *Char.* Truly sister, there is a distraction and giddines in profession of religion, that every one almost is led, by his owne opinion.

Cheap. That Embleme was a pretty one of the old woman who going to say her prayers in a Chappell that stood upon the top of an hill found a great many dead mens skulls scattered about, shee gathered as many as she could into her lap, with a devout intent to lay them up in a charnell house: As she was going, her apron slip, and the iculs ran severall wayes; the old woman observing it, said, Goe whither you will; for when you were alive, every one differed in your opinions, and now dead you take your severall wayes like wife. *Char.* But to make short of our discourse, which concerns our selves, it is certaine that *Arcadus*, the Emperour forbad that the Crosse should be engraven upon the ground, lest it might be trod upon by the people.

Cheap. It is true he did; but should he live in these times, he would be laught at; Nay, some thinke it very fitting that we and our children should be again baptiz'd, because we were sign'd with the signe of the Crosse. There is one

Crosse

Crosse in London, a very honest man, by trade a Taylor, who verily fears hee must change his name, and so make himselfe no better then a Rogue by the Statute. *Char.* Two Brownists, as they came one day along by me, were overheard by a Draser at the three Tunnes, to affirme the very name of *Crosse* ought utterly to be abolished, nor so much as to be named in or about any thing; as if your maid bee bid to mend the fire, you must not say to her, *Lay those sticks acrosse*, nor to a Carpenter, *place that beam acrosse*, nor may a Dancer once mention the name of a *Cross-caper*, nor the Wrestler the *Cross-bearer*; or if any griefe or misfortune happen unto you, you must not say, *I am crosse in my minde*, but *I am bear-baited in minde*: nor must a Tradesman lay to his Prentice, *Crosse the Booke*, but lattices the Booke (that is overthwart it, as Ale-houses lattices are) nor must a country Taylor be said to sit *Cross-leg'd*, but *Andrew*-wife. A Cross bow must bee termed a Venison or Pasty bow: nor ought you say; I will crosse the street, but overthwart it. *Cheap.* The Chronicles make mention of bloody Crosses which in a bloody raine fell upon mens garments here in England in the reigne of *Edward* the first, how would they have called them if such a fatall signe had appeared (which God avert) in our dayes? *Char.* Bloody tokens no doubt of it. *Cheap.* And what name, I wonder, shall *Tottenham High-crosse* have? *Plaine Tottenham* I warrant you. But heare you me, sister, let us make an end of this subje: for we might fare the worse if we should be over-heard; there be they that observe us, and whatsoever is said; therefore, sister, be rul'd by mee, wee will both stand still hereafter where we did, and say nothing. *Char.* Sister, agreed, they get not a word more of me as long as any Coach walkes the Street. *Cheap.* Nor of me as long as my *Hearb-garden* lasts. *Char.* No more therefore, but only let us referre our selves to the censure of this most just and honourable Parliament (for there is not a Parliament man but knowes me) whether we shall continue where we are, or no. What say you sister? *Cheap.* I will know my Lord Maior and the Cities minde first. I dare not (as *I live*) doe any thing without them, though I doubt not but that they will stand my true friends, as I have stood for them these three hundred and odde yeares. And I doubt not of all lawfull favour from the most honourable Court of Parliament, since we both disflawow Idolatry & are resolved to stand fast according to our degrees for the honour of both Cities, London and Westminster, as long as we have one stone left upon another. *Char.* Sister, I commend your resolution; but since *Truth* is the daughter of *Time*, what wee shall all trust to, wee shall know hereafter:

FINIS.

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Autumn 1881

